Japanese Foreign Minister's visit

2394. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Foreign Minister, who visited India, has announced restoration of Japan's overseas development assistance to India to the levels that existed before May 1998 nuclear tests conducted by India;

(b) if so, whether Japan has agreed to work closely with India for achieving and also consolidating peace in Sri Lanka;

(c) whether Japan looks at India as a strategic partner in the definitive context of new perceptions that are beginning to determine the course of ongoing global fight against terrorism;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) Parts (a) and (b) of the question are not connected. Foreign Minister Kawaguchi stated that India is a vital presence in the quest to bring peace to Sri Lanka and that as it strives to help the Sri Lankans, Japan will continue to work closely with India through its strategic partnership.

(c) Foreign Minister Kawaguchi stated that Japan India are united as partners not only in bilateral contexts but also regarding various global issues. She identified fight against terrorism as a subject that merits increased cooperation.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.